



Sen. Joe Zarelli
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Committee Assignments

- Ways & Means, Ranking Republican
- International Trade & Economic Development
- Rules

Town Halls

Saturday, March 19th:

10:00 – 11:30 am
Woodland Council
Chambers
230 Davidson Ave.
Woodland

1:00 – 2:30 pm
Hockinson High School
Library
16819 NE 159th Street
Brush Prairie

Important Dates:

We have been working on the Senate Floor this past week as the deadline for bills to make it out of the “house of origin” is Wednesday, March 16th.

Sen. Joe Zarelli's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

3/11/05

Dear Friends,

As you probably know, Gov. Christine Gregoire has officially declared a drought for Washington State. While the drought declaration means hard times ahead for our farmers, ranchers and many small businesses, at least the proper resources will be made available to them through federal loans and the opening of emergency wells.

Also, here are a couple of bills that passed the Senate this week:

Senate Bill 5177 authorizes one or more cities or counties across the state to create a Transportation Benefit District – recognizing that many areas have transportation needs that are too substantial to resolve with state funding alone. The TBDs identify projects in need of funding and can place these projects and selected funding methods before voters during an election. This measure is now before the House of Representatives.

Except for murder and crimes like arson that result in someone's death, there is a time limit in law for filing charges. Rape is one of those crimes for which there is a “statute of limitations.” **Senate Bill 5042** changes that provision so that suspects of felony sex crimes can be charged for up to one year after DNA evidence has become available. This change in law was first adopted in California after a man was charged with rape and his DNA evidence identified him as the offender in an earlier rape. However, he could not be charged with the earlier rape because the statute of limitations on that crime had expired. This measure is now before the House of Representatives.

And lastly, Democrats said this week they expect to raise taxes, apparently rejecting the “priorities of government” process to balance the budget within current revenues. To clear the way for raising taxes, Senate Democrats on the Ways & Means Committee gave approval to **Senate Bill 6078**. This measure allows the Legislature to approve tax increases by a simple majority vote – instead of the two-thirds required under Initiative 601, and because it has an “emergency clause” on it, voters would NOT be able to repeal the law via referendum!

As always, please feel free to contact my office with your questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming town hall meetings.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joe Zarelli
18th Legislative District

District Day – You are invited!

The 18th Legislative District Day will be held on Wednesday, March 23. The day will include a tour of the newly-refurbished Legislative Building, lunch (**bring your own brown-bag lunch**) with myself, Rep. Orcutt and Rep. Curtis, a tour of the Governor's Mansion and a tour of the Temple of Justice. We will start the day at 10:00 a.m. in the State Reception Room, located in the Legislative Building. Please contact my office if